

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Aug. 29, 2003**

For immediate release

- 1. Beach remains posted at George Wyth, but advisory removed at Rock Creek; Union Grove and Lake Anita to be re-sampled**
- 2. Iowa pollution prevention program receives two national honors**
- 3. DNR to focus on resource management at Clay County**
- 4. Applications sought for Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards**

## **BEACH POSTED AT LAKE DARLING AND ADVISORY REMAINS AT GEORGE WYTH; UNION GROVE ADVISORY RMOVED**

DES MOINES — A swimming advisory has been posted at Lake Darling in Washington County and an advisory remains in effect for the beach at George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County. The swimming advisory at Union Grove Lake in Tama County has been removed.

Lake Darling had an E. coli count of 440 which exceeds the standard for a one-time test of 235. It is posted immediately because it is on a list of eight beaches in Iowa that have historically had bacteria problems. George Wyth had a count of 140, but it's geometric mean of 171 still exceeds the standard of 126 for at least five results taken over a 30-day period, so the advisory will remain in affect.

The beach at Union Grove had a count of 140 so the advisory will be removed.

Bacteria levels at beaches typically rise as a result of runoff from rainfall and can return to normal in less than two days with sunny conditions. Samples are collected from the beaches on Monday and Tuesday.

Bacteria levels at Iowa's 36 other state park beaches are within acceptable levels.

The DNR is also advising normal precautions for contact with any surface water in Iowa:

- Avoid swallowing the water

- Avoid the water if you have open cuts or wounds that could become infected by contact with bacteria
- Swimming is not recommended for persons who are very young or very old and may have problems avoiding ingestion of water, and people who have weakened immune systems due to other medical conditions.

Weekly beach monitoring results are posted on the DNR's website every Friday afternoon at <http://www.iowadnr.com/news/beach.html>

**For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395 or Janice Boekhoff, 319-335-1574.**

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## **IOWA POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM RECEIVES TWO NATIONAL HONORS**

DES MOINES — The Iowa Pollution Prevention Intern Program, coordinated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, has been tapped by two national organizations to receive top honors for leadership and innovation protecting the environment.

On Aug. 26, the Council of State Governments selected the intern program as a winner of the Midwest Region's Innovations Awards program, and as one of eight national finalists. The awards are the only comprehensive, national program that focuses exclusively on state programs and policies. Winners are selected from hundreds of applicants for creativeness, results, and impacts on the region.

The intern program also received the Most Valuable Pollution Prevention Award from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. The non-profit organization is the largest membership organization in the United States devoted exclusively to pollution prevention. The DNR will receive its award at a ceremony Sept. 17 in Washington, D.C.

Started in 2001, the Iowa Pollution Prevention Intern Program is a unique partnership among government, academia and business. By matching college students with Iowa companies, the program offers interns hands-on experience reducing pollution in industrial settings, provides companies with specific options for preventing pollution and saving money, and keeps qualified college graduates in Iowa.

Through the work of the interns, companies have saved more than \$5.4 million, with an average of \$98,000 per company. The program also has conserved 354 million gallons of water, decreased energy use by 11 million kWh, reduced solid waste by 16,600 tons, decreased hazardous waste by 42,380 gallons and reduced air emissions by 192 tons.

**For more information on the DNR's Pollution Prevention Intern Program, contact Program Coordinator Jan Loyson at (515) 281-3142, or Jeff Fiagle at (515) 281-5353.**

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## **DNR TO FOCUS ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT CLAY COUNTY FAIR**

SPENCER — Iowa's natural resources will be the emphasis of this year's DNR exhibits at the Clay County Fair, September 6-14 in Spencer, Iowa. The DNR, along with several regional county conservation boards, will be housed in a renovated log cabin.

Water quality will be the topic of many DNR displays as the DNR Environmental Services Division makes its first presence at the fair. Visitors will be able to locate their local watershed on a giant map of Iowa and learn more about how they can improve Iowa's water quality. A 6-foot by 10-foot stream table will be housed in the Stub Johnson Learning Center, located about 20 feet from the cabin. The stream table features running water flowing through various natural habitats, illustrating streambank erosion, stream flow, the benefits of buffer strips and other water quality issues.

Fish and wildlife biologists and conservation officers, as well as environmental services division staff, will be on hand to answer any questions.

"This is a great opportunity for hunters, landowners and the general public to find out more about our natural resources," said Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the Spencer DNR field office. "We're really excited to be working with the county conservation boards and the cabin and grounds will provide a new opportunity for environmental education."

The log cabin housing the DNR, now located on the west side of the fairgrounds, was moved Aug. 19 from the Ed and Agnes Sundholm farm, located outside of Albert City. The area around the 24-foot by 36-foot cabin has been named the Sundholm Environmental Education Center, and displays inside the cabin at the fair will detail the history of the cabin, its recent move, and future landscaping plans. The move of the cabin, built in the early 1950s, was a joint project between the DNR, District 3 County Conservation Boards and the Clay County Fair Association.

"We would encourage fairgoers to stop and see the cabin," said Karess Knudtson, naturalist for the Clay County Conservation Board. "It's worth a stop to see how it was built, learn the history behind the building and enjoy the exhibits inside."

Another DNR exhibit will allow fairgoers to take home a free color infrared photography printout of their farm, property or favorite hunting area. Private lands biologists will provide the aerial images, which are higher resolution than most aerial photos, showing details like vegetation.

Different wildlife species – like turtles, frogs, salamanders and more — will be on display in a live terrarium. Mounted species, including trophy deer and trumpeter swans, will also be on display.

Fair visitors can learn how to reduce waste and save energy in the home as they tour the energy and waste management trailer, a converted semi-trailer located just west of the log cabin.

In addition, chainsaw carvers will be displaying and practicing their craft outside the cabin during the fair and county conservation boards will be presenting daily programs.

The cabin and the energy and waste management trailer will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

For more information on the fair, call (712) 262-4740 or visit [www.claycountyfair.com](http://www.claycountyfair.com).

**For more information on DNR exhibits, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.**

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## **APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR GOVERNOR'S IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

DES MOINES — Iowa businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to apply for the 2003 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. This premier environmental awards program, sponsored by Governor Vilsack and the State of Iowa, recognizes leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

"We are very excited to recognize Iowans who have worked to protect and enhance our state's natural resources," said Jeffrey Vonk, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "Their work is critical to the future health and vitality of our state."

Awards will be given for overall environmental excellence and special recognition in water quality, waste management, energy efficiency/renewable energy, air quality and habitat restoration/development.

Categories for the awards include:

- ◆ Community/Local Government
- ◆ Small Business or Industry (up to 200 employees)
- ◆ Large Business or Industry (more than 200 employees)
- ◆ Institution/Public Sector Facility (hospital, college, school, etc.)
- ◆ Agriculture (operation, farm or other ag-related business or organization)
- ◆ Service/Civic/Nonprofit Organization (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, etc.)

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

The application deadline is November 10, 2003. To obtain an application, go to the Web site [www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html), or contact: Jill Cornell, Department of Natural Resources (515) 281-0879; e-mail: [Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us).